

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth on Monday 31st October 2016 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors G G Chappel (Town Mayor), Mrs R D Brock, O K Cramp, G F Evans CC, S D Eva, Mrs V E Eva, S Gray, A J Jewell CC, M T McCarthy, Ms D E Merrett, Mrs P A Minson, B M A Ross and D W Saunby CC.

In Attendance: A M Williams	(Town Clerk)
R J Gates	(Town Manager)
Watch Manager J Thorn	(Falmouth Fire Station)
A George	(Falmouth School)
P Wickes, D Wickes and D Martin	(Cornwall Marine Network)
P Mitchell	(P1 Powerboats)
Ms M Bradley and Ms P Fitzpatrick	(Falmouth Fairtrade)
Miss A Webster	(FXU)
Father I Froome	(Mayor's Chaplain)

PRAYERS

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

C4769 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Ms Atherton (ill) and Mrs M Davies (ill).

C4770 INTERESTS

None received.

C4771 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Ms Merrett and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Evans CC now left the meeting.

C4772 TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor reported upon his, and the Deputy Mayor's civic attendances. This included the Civic Service Parade, a very interesting visit to the Penryn Universities Campus, South West in Bloom Awards and Reception, First Poppy Ceremony, Oyster Festival, Trevvra Choir, National Association of Local Councils Awards and Andy Hocking Building Memorial.

He also reminded members to continue to vote for the Council in the GB High Street Awards as the judging was imminent. Further he reported correspondence from Councillor Steve Eva advising the Council that he had joined the Liberal Democrat Party.

He presented a Council plaque to the Cornwall Marine Network to recognise the excellent work supporting the marine industry of Falmouth and Cornwall.

C4773 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

C4774 P1 POWERBOATS EVENT PROPOSAL

Mr Mitchell, of Mitchell Racing Ltd, presented a proposal to stage a powerboat and jetski event in Falmouth in 2017. There was a large worldwide television audience and he hoped the Council would support and assist the staging of the event. He responded to questions and it was established that the event would require £20,000 funding as well as external sponsorship. It fitted best in to the local events calendar late June/early July. Shoreside events would be integral.

It was proposed by Councillor McCarthy, seconded by Councillor S D Eva and

RESOLVED that the Council supports the staging of the powerboat event in Falmouth in 2017 and Mr Mitchell and the Race Organisers meet with the Town Mayor, Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Council Officers to discuss further and the level of the Council's support.

C4775 FAIRTRADE FALMOUTH

Mrs Bradley advised that Falmouth was the first town in Cornwall to receive Fairtrade status in 2006. Status had recently been re-accredited however the local Steering Group had dwindled and the agreed Action Plan difficult to realise. This may be revised in consultation with the Fairtrade Foundation. She hoped the Council would support the Steering Group. The Group were also approaching other organisations for support. She responded to questions.

It was proposed by Councillor S D Eva, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the Council continues to support the Falmouth Fairtrade Group and promotes it in the Falmouth Guide.

The Mayor advised he would make a donation for the Group.

C4776 POLICE REPORT

No report received.

C4777 COMMUNITY FIRE STATION REPORT

The report from Watch Manager Thorn was duly received and forms part of these minutes.

C4778 FALMOUTH SCHOOL

Mr George provided an update on the excellent examination results at A level by Falmouth School pupils. They were also working with Cornwall Marine Network regarding vocational courses and apprenticeships. He updated upon window and roof replacements work and thanked the Council for its support of the 3G sports pitch that had been approved.

He responded to members questions.

C4779 COMMUNITY NETWORK

No report received.

C4780 CORNWALL COUNCILLORS REPORT

Arwenack

No report.

Boslowick

Councillor Jewell reported that the planning appeal had been allowed regarding Bosvale Fields. He had also instructed the removal and resiting of a bench at Swanvale.

Penwerris

No report

Smithick

Councillor Ms Atherton's report was received and noted and is attached as a part of these minutes.

Trescobeas

Councillor Saunby reported upon the continuing situation with the proposed former Rosslyn Hotel development.

C4781 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Planning Committee Report dated 19th September 2016 was presented by Councillor Ms Merrett, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Merrett, seconded by Councillor Gray and

RESOLVED that the report of the Committee dated
19th September 2016 be approved.

The Planning Committee Report dated 10th October 2016 was presented by Councillor Chappel, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Chappel, seconded by Councillor Ms Merrett and

RESOLVED that the report of the Committee dated
10th October 2016 be approved.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Report dated 17th October 2016 was presented by Councillor Gray, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Gray, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the report of the Committee dated
17th October 2017 be approved.

The Cultural Services Committee Report dated 26th September 2016 was presented by Councillor Mrs Minson in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Minson, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the report of the Committee dated
26th September 2016 be approved.

The Licensing Committee Report dated 24th October 2016 was presented by Councillor Mrs Brock, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Brock, seconded by Councillor Gray and

RESOLVED that the report of the Committee dated
24th October 2016 be approved.

C4782 TOWN MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Town Manager presented the Town Management report that was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

C4783 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk presented his report that was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

C4784 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Chappel, seconded by Councillor Mrs Minson and

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of property and contractual matters it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

COUNCIL-PART II
31ST OCTOBER 2016

C4785 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part II report dated 17th October 2016 was presented by Councillor Gray, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Gray, seconded by Councillor Mrs Minson and

RESOLVED that the Part II report of the Committee dated 17th October 2016 be approved.

The Staffing Committee report dated 17th October 2016 was presented by Councillor Mrs Minson, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Minson, seconded by Councillor Mrs V E Eva and

RESOLVED that the report of the Committee dated 17th October 2016 be approved.

There being no further business to transact the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed: Date:



Falmouth Community Fire Station Town Council Report

The following outlines a brief overview of July to September 2016, focusing on three core areas of Protection, Prevention & Response.

1. Protection

Watches fulfil their part in the protection arm of the Fire and Rescue Service by undertaking visits at commercial premises. Many larger premises either have in-house staff trained in fire safety or choose to buy in the services of a consultant. Either way that person is ensuring their employer is fulfilling its legal and moral duty to protect staff and customers from the risk of fire. However, many smaller businesses have very little knowledge of their responsibilities and the laws concerned with fire safety. Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service aims to raise the standards within these organisations by visiting, informing and advising on fire safety. Our simple aim for these small businesses is that they fulfil their minimum legal obligations and look to write into their business plan a work schedule which brings their property up to a standard which better reflects the widely accepted best practice.

- a. Tactical Information Files – for higher risk premises
The watches completed 12 site visits this quarter, from the Penmere Manor to Tremough campus. TIF (tactical information file) visit is an information gathering exercise where watches collate and check the data held about commercial premises. These premises are selected as they are either deemed to be at greater risk of a fire breaking out, or should a fire break out, they pose a greater risk to the public or firefighters attending an incident. The TIF data is stored on each fire engine, and at Fire Control, however firefighters are expected to have a broad knowledge of the layouts and risks presented by each of our TIF premises.
An example of the sort of premises covered by a TIF would be a large manufacturing company, or a medium-large hotel.
- b. Operation Fire Safety Visits – for lower risk premises
The watches completed 24 site visits, in the Falmouth area, such as the smithy at Mawnan Smith to The Bike Shop in Falmouth. An OFSV is a brief visit carried out on premises whose risk is deemed to be more generic. The aims are to identify the use and occupier of the building, and to inform and advise the occupier of their legal responsibility to protect from the risk of fire. In practice this means the crews carry out a brief and informal survey of the building; checking that the occupier has carried out a Fire Risk Assessment; taken steps to reduce the risk of fire; and taken appropriate steps to protect occupants should a fire break out.
An example of the sort of premises covered by an OFSV would be any commercial property not covered by a TIF; eg. a small shop or industrial unit

2. Prevention

At a watch level this area is covered by Home Fire Safety Checks and prevention talks to community groups.

- a. Home Fire Safety Checks
During this quarter, crews carried out over 100 HFSC, mainly focusing on Penryn, Falmouth, Mawnan Smith and Mylor Bridge.

This is a free service we offer to all residents, be they home owners or tenants. The crew base their advice around a booklet entitled Fire Safety in the Home, but tailor the

information specifically to the hazards identified during their visit. The crew also carry free smoke detectors to fit if appropriate.

b. Community Engagement

During the quarter, crews were involved in 8 separate community events. These groups vary from small support groups for those with dementia to whole-year school groups child carers , pre school visits, and everything in between.

C. Blue watch has completed visits to all student halls within the town and engaged with over 350 students in kitchen safety and fires within their accommodation, property's visited were HSTH , Maritime studios, and the sidings

D. Red watch again this year competed in the greenpower self-build and raced with the children involved at RAF St Mawgan

E. White watch held a very successful Fast car event called "FUSE" which attracted a high number of cars and people from around the county; this was to highlight the dangers of the roads and driving safely.

F. Black watch has completed a Dementia garden "initiative" Princess Pavilions in which they picked up an award from the Royal Horticultural society, further visits are planned to help on a regular basis.

3. Response

This area is self-explanatory however members of the general public are often unaware of the breadth of incidents the Fire & Rescue Service are trained and equipped to respond to. The following list summarises only the types of incidents we attended during the quarter:

Summary	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Fire	14	9	6	29
Special Service	9	11	11	31
False Alarm	20	23	25	68
Grand Total	43	43	42	128

Fire	J	A	S	Σ
Dwelling	6	2	3	11
Outdoor	6	5	1	12
Non-residential	1	1	2	4
Road Vehicle	1	1	0	2

Special	J	A	S	Σ
RTC	1	2	2	5
Lift rescue	2	1	1	4
Effecting entry	0	2	2	4
Other rescue	0	2	2	4

False Alarm	J	A	S	Σ
Fire Alarm	16	18	13	47
Good Intent	4	6	9	19
Malicious	0	1	1	2

During this quarter incidents were divided **55/45%** by day and night. The average number of appliances per incident was **6%** more at night than day. It can be seen that night incidents are more resource intensive; this is likely due to a number of factors.

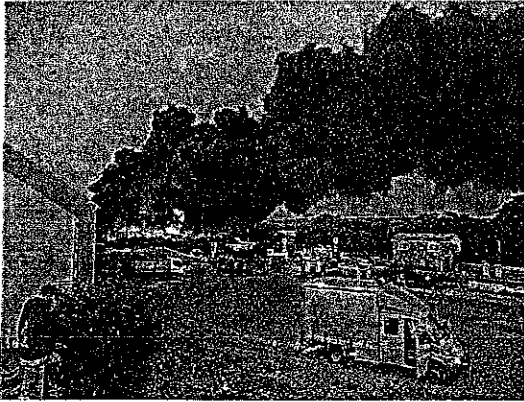
4. Summary

The above overview gives an impression of the range of work that is undertaken by Falmouth Community Fire station on a day to day basis. Alongside the public-facing Protection, Prevention, and Response duties are the internal and preparatory tasks; obviously for each incident or inspection there is the inevitable paperwork trail to complete, all the equipment on our seven response vehicles needs to be regularly tested and maintained, and to ensure the crews are able to fulfil their duties the watches undertake regular training drills and courses. Add to all this the work undertaken by the Phoenix team and the volunteer community work and hopefully it is clear that your local fire station continues to be a busy hub in the community for Community Safety and Protection.

5. Social Media

 @FalmouthCFRS

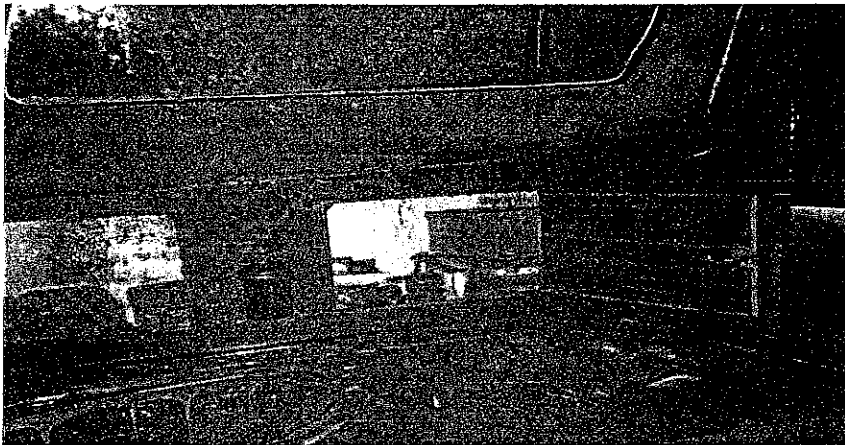
A



B

- A. St earth tyre fire in which falmouth attended every day/night for four days
- B. Chip pan demo and kitchen safety@ HSTH
- C. Fire on board 35 ft Yacht in Falmouth harbour

C



www.cornwall.fire.gov.uk



FALMOUTH

the spirit of the sea

Town Management Report to Falmouth Town Council 31/10/16

Andy Hocking House

Recently I attended along with the Mayor the official unveiling of the Andy Hocking House at Devon & Cornwall Police Headquarters. With the footprints locally and the naming of the building hopefully Andy's name and what he stood for will remain long into the future.

Moonlight Memory Walk

For the first year the MMW also walked through Kimberley Park with permission from ourselves. This was a great idea by CHSW as they lined the route through the park with candles and this was very well received by everyone taking part. In excess of £25,000 has been pledged which is a superb amount for the charity. Needless to say this is a stable event on the calendar for future years.

Oyster Festival

This has in the region of 40,000+ attending and continues form strength to strength in its 20th year. We co-ordinated the safety side of the parade with road closures etc. and John Frankland liaised with the school groups. I know John had bands booked that were unable to attend very close to the event.

Christmas activities

The majority of Christmas activities are coming together well and we are waiting on confirmation of a couple of items. The switch on this year is the 1st of Dec, with late nights on Thursday's throughout December. We normally run three late nights but the way the dates fall this year having the switch on on the 8th Dec would be too late. The Outlaw Christmas Market returns on the 8th-10th, Santa Run on the 10th as well, Live Nativity on the 11th, Marquee staying in situ the week after on the moor for events everyday including the Frozen evening which was a



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Town Management Report to Falmouth Town Council 31/10/16

huge success last year. Lots of the events are Moor based so we are looking at what we can do within tight budgets to add to this.

Weekly market

On the previous report I also mentioned the market after the major update and interest is continuing to increase with a waiting list for the Saturday's now. Feedback from the traders has been very positive. There are still lots of things to tweak and develop into 2017.

Great British High Street finalist

As I am sure you know by now Falmouth is through the final three in the 'Coastal Community' category for 'The Great British High Street'. This is a great achievement for the town and obviously it will be great to win. In the end there were over 900 applications across the 14 categories. It is now down to the public vote and also a judges visit with a 50/50 split. Please vote everyday and thank you if you have already. Voting is from the 18th Oct until 18th Nov with the winner announced mid-December www.thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk/finalist-coastal-community The link is available from the homepage of Falmouth.co.uk so please mention to friends and family to encourage as many votes as possible. At the time of compiling this report Falmouth was second in the list after the first week of voting so need to pull out all the stops to increase ours votes.



FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

31ST OCTOBER 2016

TOWN CLERKS REPORT

ITEM NO. 15

15.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2017/18
CONSULTATION

Further to the instruction from the Finance and General Purposes Committee attached is correspondence to the Department of Communities and Local Government raising objection to the Consultation and the proposals regarding referendum principles, as well as to Sarah Newton MP.

Also attached is objection raised by the Cornwall Association of Local Councils and the Society for Local Council Clerks (Cornwall) for Members information. (to follow)

15.2 OTHER CONSULTATIONS

The following consultation and publications have been received and are available for Members perusal :

- Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2016 -2021 'Place and People'
- Cornwall Council Local Plan DPD Allocations Document (being considered by the Planning Committee)
- Port Pendennis 2016 'Voyage'

15.3 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS STAR COUNCIL

AWARDS

The Council have been nationally recognised for its work furthering local partnerships. Engaging with devolution and community consultation. We were runner-up to Council of the Year Award at the NALC National Conference.

Mark Williams FCIS FILCM

Town Clerk

October 2016



Falmouth Town Council

25th October 2016

AMW/VR

Mrs Sarah Newton MP
18 Lemon Street
Truro
TR1 2LZ

Dear Sarah,

Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation

Further to our brief conversation the other day my Council have now formally considered the above consultation regarding the proposals to extend council tax referendum principles to the parish and town councils sector.

You may also be aware I have submitted a joint representation by the Cornwall Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks Branch on behalf of all Cornish local Councils.

Your office has assisted us in recent years in lobbying on similar proposals and we have welcomed the Government's decisions on those occasions not to introduce the measure.

Local Councils account for just 1.7% of the £26 billion raised through Council Tax in England and have demonstrated fiscal responsibility in recent years with overall increases in precepts going down, raising this year by just 6 pence per week on average as a result of local councils, like Falmouth, taking services from their principal authorities without funding being passed down from them.

We are therefore extremely concerned indeed about the proposals set out in the consultation, proposals which will be greeted by England's 80,000 local councillors as a real blow to local democracy and their democratic role to make decisions on spending priorities and work with the local community to identify and meet local needs.

Right across the country local councils are doing a brilliant job improving their areas; whether it's by building community resilience, increasing house building through neighbourhood planning, providing local transport solutions, taking on libraries, providing youth services, supporting the local economy and businesses, organising community events and festivals, helping meet social care needs and making places



Town Clerk
A.M. Williams FCIS

Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 2RT

Email: admin@falmouthtowncouncil.com Telephone: 01326 315559 - fax: 01326 312662



dementia friendly or giving grants to help local groups and organisations – all this and often more for an average cost to residents of just over a pound a week.

Falmouth Town Council as you know plays a vital role in supporting the Community through its engagement with the devolution process, and in the face of an austerity climate has taken on public toilets, providing a true cross community one stop hub, ensuring festivals and events are provided, ensuring the future of Falmouth Library, external youth services, highway weed spraying and a myriad of other services that our residents have told us they do not wish to see disappear.

The Council takes its financial management responsibilities seriously and fully recognises the importance of reducing costs and making efficiency savings so we can continue to rationalise, deliver and improve services, at the same time minimising the tax burden.

We have been lauded by the Government for this as you know especially the work around the 'Town Team' and on economic planning and the National Association of Local Councils, we were the venue for the National Best Practice visit in 2015 and runner-up in the best UK Council Awards in 2016. We have also triumphed in Britain in Bloom, are in the running for Great British High Street of the Year and voted the best place to live in the South West. All achieved by the innovation and proaction of the Town Council.

Unlike principal councils, local councils do not receive grant funding from central government or a share of business rates and are primarily financed through the parish precept.

Therefore the Council do believe these proposals amount to a centralist sledgehammer to crack a nut, at a time when the Government should be supporting not undermining councillors and their important role improving communities.

Introducing these new rules will also seriously damage the ability of smaller communities to help themselves and very much threatens the Government's previous commitments to localism and devolution.

It is vital local councils continue to have the freedom and flexibility to raise the resources they need to invest in local services, especially at a time when they are taking on services and assets from principal councils, often much valued services which would otherwise cease completely and which communities want to see continue, such as our toilets and libraries.

So given their important and growing role, local councils should be celebrated and supported, not hindered by central government.

The town and parish sector has taken up the challenge of delivering the localism agenda and the National Association of Local Councils is currently developing a

devolution toolkit along with other resources which supports Government policy on empowering local communities.

Ultimately we want more people to get involved in local decision making and to be engaged within the communities they live – to be actively involved in local elections. Effectively 'capping' parish precept and forcing councils to hold costly referenda send out a negative message about the first tier of local government which is meant to underpin the localism agenda. A £25,000 referendum cost in Falmouth probably to ask a question about spending an amount less than that!

In addition we are concerned about the unintended impact putting into question whether local councils would be able to take on a greater role including taking over services from principal authorities or taking advantage of community rights legislation such as neighbourhood planning.

There is also the significant public cost that could arise from referendums, which in certain circumstances could be triggered by changes outside of our control such as increases in business rates or national insurance. For example the current taper on the Council Tax Support Grant alone would see the need for a referendum in Falmouth, before any budget growth was considered. That cannot be right.

In summary these proposals will damage communities and local services as well as undermine local democracy and the role of local councillors and we would request you support us and also write to the local government minister Marcus Jones MP to oppose these proposals.

Yours sincerely



Mark Williams FCIS FILCM
Town Clerk

Enc Consultation Response from Falmouth Town Council



Falmouth Town Council

25th October 2016

AMWVR

Mr J Livingston
Department for Communities and Local Government
2nd Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

Dear James

Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18 Technical Consultation Paper

My Council have considered the Consultation, and I reported to my Council the Minister's presentation to the National Association of Local Councils in Birmingham on 19th October 2016.

You will know my Council has been proactive in recent times engaged with devolution and other community enabling matters and have been lauded by the Government for this particularly in regard to Town Team and economic planning. We consult with our community, provide, and have taken on services which they want. In the case of some of these such as public toilets, library, events and festivals, youth services etc we are the last community resort for their retention.

In regard to the relevant Consultation responses my Council would comment as follows:

Question 4 : Do you agree that the referendum principles should be extended to larger, higher spending town and parish councils in 2017/18 as set out in paragraphs 3.3.3 to 3.3.4?

No. The Town Council strongly opposes this. The Council would be prevented from responding to local need by providing services removed or reduced by Cornwall Council. These are services our community tells us (without the need for costly referendums) that it needs.



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A.M. Williams FCIS

Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 2RT

Email: admin@falmouthtowncouncil.com Telephone: 01326 315559 - fax: 01326 312662



The Cornwall Association of Local Councils and the Cornwall Society of Local Council Clerks will have advised you that Cornwall Council shows the value of local Councils precepts has increased by £9m since 2009. The unitary authority predicts that level will need to raise by £20m by 2020 if local Councils are to meet the significant challenges caused by its discretionary services and bridge the gap in services within the parishes and towns.

In Falmouth the taper in the Council Tax Support Grant alone would result in the need for a referendum, in effect causing a cut to budget and services, and then exacerbated by the cost of a referendum, in our case about £25,000. Money better employed on the project or service itself surely?

Question 5 : Do you agree with the proposed approach to take account of the transfer of responsibilities to town and parish council as outlined in paragraph 3.3.5?

No. It is simply impractical.

The proposed threshold is a district council figure. How can that be equitably comparable to a Unitary area and the activities of Local Councils in it? In fact the variable across our sector in terms of activity, size etc make it impossible. It ignores the fact devolution transfers are being made and our income is almost exclusively through the precept, with no funding from government and the business rate.

The criterion ignores the fact that the government criteria for larger precepting authorities sees a threshold of £6m for three consecutive years. The figure now proposed seems arbitrary. Particularly as the impact of devolution cannot be measured in a single year or at point of transfer. There are ongoing costs, often the point of transfer is to rationalise and improve as well as to save. For example to refurbish public toilets post transfer or to rationalise our library to improve the service. The inability to budget for future investment/delivery will mean local councils do not engage with devolution they will not risk a referendum, which is a flawed method of seeking community view, and services will be lost.

In addition Councils need to build our resilience and capacity to undertake these community aspirations. We cannot do that in the restrictive climate the measures will bring.

Question 6 : Do you agree with the suggestion that referendum principles may be extended to all local precepting authorities as set out in paragraph 3.3.6? If so what level of principle should be set?

Whilst the Council would be caught up in any implementation on the suggested threshold and the matter is academic to us, the principle this question proposes is not

supported. One size does not fit all, and is completely disproportionate to the public benefit with an onerous administrative burden.

The Council supports the representations of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks in their response.

Question 7 : Do you have views on the practical implications of a possible extension of the referendum principles to all local precept authorities as set out in paragraph 3.3.7?

There is an issue of timing. Local Councils are required to have budgets set and precept notified by December/January. How can a referendum be organised in that timescale?

The cost of a referendum in Falmouth would be approximately £25,000, eclipsing most spending amounts we are likely to be asking about. Meaning a service cost of £20,000 would either cost £45,000 to deliver post referendum, or the service is not delivered and Council budget has a £25,000 hole to plug.

Referendums are flawed vehicles for asking such questions and gauging community views. The Council is at the grass root level, it interacts effectively with its community. There are much better ways of gauging community will and we are happy to engage with your Department to inform those.

We would strongly urge Government not to extend referendum principles to the local government sector. Certainly not in such an illogical and ill conceived manner.

In Cornwall, the Government supported the case for Cornwall which will see 'double' devolution, which is essential to that proposal. That will not be possible if you disenfranchise the Town and Parish Councils from their ability to engage with that, to the detriment of Localism.

Yours sincerely



Mark Williams FCIS FILCM
Town Clerk

Enc Sarah Newton MP
Chris Borg (National Association of Local Councils)
Sarah Mason (Cornwall Association of Local Councils)